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1. **Claims 1-5,7,11,12,14-16,20,21** are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With regard to claim 1, the prior art of record fails to anticipate or make obvious a method of determining timeslot allocations by each node on the protection path upon occurrence of failure on the working path, comprising the steps of: "distributing *connection information* associated with the traffic flows on the working path *to all nodes* on the protection path *before* the occurrence of a failure on the working path; and upon occurrence of a failure on the working path, *individually* determining, by each node on the protection path, [1.] which traffic flows on the working path are affected by the failure ... and [2.] *the timeslot allocations* on the protection path of the affected traffic flows *at that node* based on the *connection information* associated with the affected traffic flows; wherein the traffic flows are carried in timeslots ..., and wherein each individual traffic flow occupies one or more timeslots ...."

With regard to claim 21, the prior art of record fails to anticipate or make obvious a method comprising the steps of: "distributing connection information associated with flows of working traffic ... to all nodes ... before occurrence of a failure on the working path, ... upon occurrence of a failure on the working path ... individually determining, by each ... which flows of working traffic are affected by the failure and thus will be carried on the protection path; and individually determining, by each node ... protection

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transmission unit allocations at that node for the flows of traffic being carried on the protection path, from the connection information associated with those flows."

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BLANCHE WONG whose telephone number is (571)272-3177. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 830am to 530pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Blanche Wong/

Examiner, Art Unit 2476

October 28, 2009

/Ayaz R. Sheikh/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2476